(c) the details of the progress made in this directions so far; and

(d) what other steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken by Government to promote trade relations with Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is in touch with other countries in the region, including Iran and Afghanistan, and is developing projects to improve links, including ports, roads and other infrastructure, so as to facilitate more efficient movement of goods to Afghanistan, both as a part of reconstruction assistance and commercial transactions.

(d) Government had facilitated the organization of 'Made in India' show in Kabul in September this year by the Confederation of Indian Industries. The exhibition introduced the Indian capabilities in the field of commerce and industry to the Afghan people and business community, as is also being done by the Government's assistance programme for Afghan reconstruction. Officials of the two countries are also working on finalization of a Preferential Trading Agreement.

Implementation of projects

†3030. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has recommended to implement 150 projects out of 300 projects running with the central assistance and 495 projects out of 1400 projects of the Ministries during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects left out and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) According to the Planning Commission, no such recommendation has been made. The Planning Commission has, however, undertaken a review of the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes and subjected them to Zero-based budgeting. It is proposed to retain only such Schemes in the Tenth Five-Year Plan as are demonstrably essential.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.